

## Kissinger hit Bush's 'new world order'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has attacked President George Bush's idea of a "new world order" as impossible to fulfill. Mr. Bush has repeatedly referred to the new order in recent speeches. In a speech Monday, Mr. Bush said success in the Gulf war would bring "a chance to build a new world order, based upon the principles of collective security and the rule of law." Mr. Kissinger wrote in response: "I have greatly admired President Bush's skill and fortitude in building the (Gulf war) coalition." But the new world order cannot doubt indeed whether the idealistic expectations expressed by the president, I guess. United States policymakers must recognize that the new world order cannot be built to American specifications. America cannot force feed a global sense of community where none exists." In a Washington Post article, "American predominance cannot last," Mr. Kissinger wrote that those who hope for a "community of power" have been disappointed by both the League of Nations and the United Nations.

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## Germans to pay Gulf war tax

FRANKFURT (AP) — The government on Tuesday announced plans for a broad increase in taxes that will raise about \$30 billion to cover unification and Gulf war costs. The plan adopted by the governing coalition calls for higher income, corporate, gasoline, insurance and tobacco taxes, limited to a 12-month period beginning July 1, 1991. The package is expected to raise about 46 billion marks (\$30 billion) to cover budget deficits caused by higher than anticipated unification costs and outlays for the allied effort in the Gulf war. Finance Minister Theo Waigel said, "Mr. Waigel said the government would not consider a hike in the 14 per cent value-added tax before 1993. The tax agreement came early Tuesday after long talks between Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats and their coalition partners, the Free Democrats. The plan marks a sharp reversal in Mr. Kohl's policies. Mr. Kohl had promised no new taxes during his pre-election campaign. But since Mr. Kohl's election victory in December, the government has admitted that it underestimated the cost of revamping the formerly communist economy of East Germany.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

# Bush rejects Iraqi withdrawal, insists on continuing Gulf war

## Battle of Kuwait ends, battle against Iraq begins

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED FORCES continued attacks on Iraqi soldiers withdrawing from Kuwait Tuesday after U.S. President George Bush rejected Iraq's announcement that it was relinquishing the emirate and pulling out its forces.

Most reports indicated that the bulk of the Iraqi forces were out of Kuwait and the American-led allied army and air force had trapped others within the emirate and southern Iraq.

Analysts said the American aim seemed to be not only to destroy Iraq's military but also to occupy large chunks of territory in southern Iraq which could be used as bargaining chips in achieving what appeared Tuesday to be the objective of total and complete Iraqi capitulation to Washington's terms.

Fighting between Iraq's elite Republican Guards and allied

forces were reported in several areas. In some other areas of the Gulf war theatre, trapped Iraqi soldiers, overpowered and outnumbered by the allied forces, were also surrendering, reports said. No specific numbers were immediately available.

The news blackout imposed by the allies appeared to be holding on allied casualties in the war, with most members of the coalition reporting negligible casualties as low as two or three.

Troops from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Egypt, France, Syria, Kuwait and others had suffered "remarkably light" casualties in the fighting, 18 killed and about 70 wounded, said one military spokesman.

Baghdad Radio quoted an Iraqi military spokesman as confirming allied reports that their armour and planes were attacking

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## U.S.-Soviet relations fragile — Gorbachev

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT MIKHAIL Gorbachev said Tuesday that progress in Soviet-U.S. relations was still fragile and urged Washington not to destroy what had been achieved, according to TASS news agency.

Mr. Gorbachev, speaking to workers in the Byelorussian city of Minsk, said the Middle East would remain a powder keg if there were no general settlement of conflicts there after the Gulf war.

"Stressing that Soviet-American dialogue lay at the centre of normalisation of the world situation, Mikhail Gorbachev remarked that progress in relations between the USA and

the USSR was still 'fragile'. He called for 'responsible behaviour' so that what has been achieved is not destroyed," TASS said.

"It is vital to end this conflict and put on the agenda of the world community resolution of the broader question of the Middle East," TASS quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying.

"Without this settlement, we will always have a powder keg there which could blow up the world. What now in the Middle East shows how urgent this is," Gorbachev said.

"Mr. Gorbachev's cautiously-worded comments marked the first top-level hint since the Gulf war.

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## Iran reports allied raids on Iraq, assails U.S.

Combined agency dispatches

IRAN'S BORDER TOWNS rumbled as allied warplanes pounded targets in Iraq in what the Iranian media Tuesday said was the heaviest bombardment of the six-week war.

Greasy "black rain" from burning oil installations in Iraq and Kuwait, pouring in Iran's southwestern Lorestan province had damaged water facilities, pastures and farms, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency has reported several instances of the phenomenon over the past three weeks.

Poole-Dokhtar, in western Lorestan province, was flooded by the greasy rain, and a thick, black haze had blanketed the town in total darkness, IRNA reported.

The smog from the burning installations in Iraq and Kuwait has been hanging over Iran's bordering towns since Sunday, and is reported to be moving north.

IRNA said houses and other buildings in Abadan and Khorramshahr shook with the intensity of the allied bombardment across the border, and caused panic among residents of several other towns in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province.

The attacks were concentrated in Iraq's southern, southeastern and eastern regions, IRNA said. It said the attacks began at 1730 GMT Monday, and continued until 0230 GMT the next day.

This was despite an early morning announcement on Baghdad

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## Sheikh Jaber declares martial law in Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

THE EMIR OF KUWAIT Tuesday declared martial law in the emirate for three months, the top-level government's radio said.

The declaration came shortly after the official Kuwait News Agency reported that Iraqi forces had evacuated Kuwait City and neighbouring regions.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the prime minister of Kuwait, was declared the military governor, the government radio said.

The radio said the emir issued the decree from the government's exile base in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

The decree entrusted the military governor with coordination between the Kuwaiti armed forces and commanders of the

military forces of the foreign countries that "participated in the operation to liberate Kuwait."

The statement said the move was taken as the country prepares for "the bigger jihad" of rehabilitating the war-damaged country and "ensuring life in Kuwait against remnants of aggression and to protect people, honour and property against what might reimpose the country."

The statement did not elaborate on the coordination process with the U.S.-led foreign forces that waged the war.

The emir escaped to Saudi Arabia when Iraqi troops overran his country on Aug. 2.

Kuwait had a population of nearly two million people on the

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Mr. Naveh added that American bombers were continuing

## Saddam says Iraqis gained moral victory

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein said Tuesday he would immediately withdraw all his troops from Kuwait. But Iraqi military commanders said the allies continued to press their attacks.

"The withdrawal has started and today it will be completed," President Saddam said in a broadcast over Baghdad Radio.

There was jubilation in Baghdad. Anti-aircraft batteries and militia soldiers fired into the air in celebration.

But the United States and Britain rejected the withdrawal, saying President Saddam must agree to comply with all U.N. Security Council resolutions including paying reparations to Kuwait and abandoning claims to the emirate.

The Iraqi military said allied forces continued attacking the

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## 29 Americans killed in Al Khobar attack

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ'S DEADLIEST missile attack of the Gulf war killed 27 American servicemen and wounded 98, a U.S. military spokesman said Tuesday.

The missile smashed into a two-storey U.S. military barracks in Khobar, in eastern Saudi Arabia near the big allied military base at Dhahran, at about 9 p.m. (1800 GMT) Monday, causing an explosion and fire that gutted the building.

Residents said about 250 military support staff had occupied the barracks — a converted warehouse — for four months.

Witnesses said the missile's warhead scored a direct hit on the building, reducing it to a blackened shell of twisted steel girders and chunks of concrete.

The central command of the U.S.-led military alliance said the Iraqi rocket broke up in mid-air, making it unnecessary to fire Patriot air defence missiles to intercept it.

The missile was the first of the 42 fired against forces in the Gulf in 40 days of war. One Saudi Arabian was killed in a previous attack. Four Israelis were killed in 34 Scud attacks on Kuwait.

Bahrain said its air defences

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## Israel wants allies to make Saddam 'disappear'

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Shamir, reacting to Saddam Hussein's speech of withdrawal, said Tuesday it was essential to Israeli "security for the Iraqi leader to disappear from the international arena."

"I do not want to discuss the means and ways. It is not in our hands, we do not determine when the campaign ends," Mr. Shamir added, speaking on Israeli radios from the parliament.

Other officials voiced mixed feelings — optimistic that the war was nearing an end, while wary about whether the fighting would end with Iraq's military threat to Israel intact.

Danny Naveh, a spokesman for Defense Minister Moshe Arens, said the war was not over for Israel as long as Iraq remained capable of firing Scud missiles at the Jewish state.

"It looks as though we are nearing the day — or night — when we can breathe easy also in Israel," Mr. Naveh said. "But as long as there is ceasefire, and we still do not see one, the Iraqi threat exists."

Police Minister Roni Milo said police should "increase alert and take precautions, precisely at this moment with the heavy blows that Iraq is taking."

## Jordan demands ceasefire in Gulf

Cabinet welcomes Iraqi move

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Tuesday demanded a ceasefire in the Gulf war after Iraq announced it was withdrawing its troops from Kuwait and called for international support for Soviet efforts towards achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict.

An allied military officer in Saudi Arabia claimed Iraqi units were not withdrawing but retreating under fire and then taking up defensive positions to fight. The officer also said Iraqis were putting up stiff resistance in a tank battle near the international airport in Kuwait City.

There was no indication if that was the armoured battle that the Iraqi spokesman referred to.

"Our forces will continue their organised, orderly disciplined withdrawal in spite of what is happening, including during the

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Security Council in an urgent meeting he summoned. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King "emphasised the need to intensify diplomatic efforts at the Security Council to bring about a ceasefire in the war and support the Soviet efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict."

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri attended the meeting.

The King also called for urgent efforts to address the pressing humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people and avert an epidemic

(Continued on page 5)

anxiety and utmost concern over attempts to bypass international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions by the allied forces." The aims of the U.S.-led coalition "have started to threaten Iraq and the security of the region and stability and create anger and condemnation from the Arab citizen," the report said.

The Cabinet stressed the principles adopted by Jordan towards the Gulf crisis and "expressed its pride over the awareness and self-control shown by the Jordanian citizen which would reinforce the country's internal front and national unity."

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Tuesday welcomed Iraq's move to withdraw from Kuwait in accordance with United Nations Resolution 660 and called for intensified international efforts to bring about a ceasefire in the Gulf. The Cabinet, which held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, discussed "the latest dangerous developments in the Gulf war and what accompanies them in diplomatic efforts in the United Nations Security Council aimed at bringing about a ceasefire immediately," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The Cabinet expressed "its

anxiety and utmost concern over attempts to bypass international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions by the allied forces." The aims of the U.S.-led coalition "have started to threaten Iraq and the security of the region and stability and create anger and condemnation from the Arab citizen," the report said.

The Cabinet stressed the principles adopted by Jordan towards the Gulf crisis and "expressed its pride over the awareness and self-control shown by the Jordanian citizen which would reinforce the country's internal front and national unity."

Mr. Belonogov said the presidential message was immediately relayed to the Security Council as well as the White House.

The Soviet Union on Monday had presented a second peace plan to the Security Council. It reportedly was quite close to conditions set forth by Mr. Bush, who had demanded an Iraqi pullout within a week and a renunciation by Iraq of any claims on Kuwait.

The official TASS news agency quoted the presidential message as saying: "In compliance with U.N. Security Resolution 660, the Iraqi leadership is ready to withdraw its troops from Kuwait immediately. The order to start an immediate ceasefire has already been issued."

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov said in Moscow that at Iraq's request, the Soviet ambassador at the United Nations, Yuri Vorontsov, was proposing "an immediate decision on the issue of a ceasefire."

Mr. Belonogov said President Saddam Hussein also said in the message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Iraqi troops were withdrawing from Kuwait.

The official TASS news agency quoted the presidential message as saying: "In compliance with U.N. Security Resolution 660, the Iraqi leadership is ready to withdraw its troops from Kuwait immediately. The order to start an immediate ceasefire has already been issued."

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## Allies' stand stalls Security Council

Combined agency dispatches

THE SECURITY COUNCIL suspended consultations Tuesday without reaching any formal decision on a ceasefire or acceptance of Iraq's offer to withdraw from Kuwait.

The Soviet Union said it believes the announced withdrawal satisfies "all interested parties" in the Gulf war, and urged the United Nations to call an immediate ceasefire.

But U.S. President George Bush called Iraq's statement "an outrage" and said it was "trying to claim victory in the midst of a rout." Britain — which along with the United States could veto any resolutions as a permanent member of the council — also sharply criticised Iraq's statement.

Iraq's ambassador told the

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diplomats said they expected the session to resume but no date has been set yet.

Members of the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq said they were not prepared to halt the fighting until Baghdad accepted all 12 council resolutions adopted in the wake of its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Other nations preferred an immediate ceasefire.

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(Continued on page 5)

## More than 100 branches in Jordan and all over the world

Announces the opening of a new office in

## Al Husn

Banking services started on Monday

25 February 1991

Arab Bank, Al Husn Office  
Wasfi Al Tal Street, Al Husn Municipality Commercial Centre Bldg.,  
P O Box 16 - Irbid,  
Tel: (02) 210701/Tel. & Fax: (02) 210702

## Arab Bank

## Palestinians do not see Iraqi pullout as defeat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories have voiced their support for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and do not consider it a defeat.

Palestinians interviewed by AFP (Agence France Presse) said that their open support for Iraq would not harm the Palestinian cause notwithstanding the outcome of the conflict whether it is a positive or negative one because they say that the Palestine problem continues with or without the Iraqi war.

Interview at a square near Al Aqsa Mosque the Director of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Department in Jerusalem Adnan Al Husseini said: "We are not aware of the final outcome of these battles, but we had believed that the ground battle would continue for more than three days. The decision to withdraw is, however, Iraq's business and the Iraqis are the only people concerned about this decision."

Husseini said: "Regardless of the outcome of these battles

the Palestine problem should not be affected because the Palestine question belongs to a people and has existed for more than 43 years. The Palestine problem is the root cause for all the problems in the Middle East region. This problem has continued to exist in the absence of a lasting solution and could continue for another 100 years. The Iraqi war can not solve the Palestine problem."

Sheikh Mohammad Ismail, inspector at the Sharia courts in the occupied Arab territories said: "As Muslims we absolutely support Iraq, and Saddam Hussein is considered as a wise man and a victorious knight. For the first time in Arab history an Arab Muslim man stands and challenges the whole world, and for this reason we are behind him until the end."

Mustafa Al Tamimi, 63, a shoemaker in Jerusalem said: "Saddam Hussein's step is a courageous one. He realises that they are after him, and that the battle will not end, but will be decided on Iraqi terri-

tory. I believe that the withdrawal is to bring about a change in the world public opinion about Iraq."

He said: "The Palestine problem has been our problem for the past years and Washington has been vetoing all the resolutions, what would it do now about Palestine?"

People in the West Bank in general gathered around radio sets to hear the news and Saddam Hussein's nation wide address. They agreed that the withdrawal was not a defeat but a tactical move. They said that Saddam Hussein's withdrawal angered Israel, the United States and Britain because they are intent on destroying his military machine.

Mufidah Hammad, 35, who works as a teacher said: "We do not consider the withdrawal as a defeat because Saddam has been facing 31 nations."

We support Iraq because it was the only Arab country that has been championing our rights. We expect anything to emerge from the war; and even if he lost the battle, we will support him as a hero."

## Excerpts from Saddam speech

HERE ARE EXCERPTS from Tuesday's speech by Saddam Hussein in which the Iraqi leader said his forces were withdrawing from Kuwait. The statement was carried by the Iraqi News Agency.

"Oh, great people, oh nobles in the forces of jihad and faith, oh glorious men of the mother of battles, oh truthful zealous believers in our glorious nation and all Muslims and good people in the world, oh glorious Iraqi women:

"In such circumstances and moments, it is difficult to say all that should be said... nevertheless, it is necessary to mention the essential.

"This day, our armed forces will complete their withdrawal from Kuwait. Today, our fight against aggression and atheism in a 30-country coalition that has officially waged a U.S.-led war on us, will have lasted from the night of Jan. 16-17 until this moment — two months of the legendary showdowm.

"This showdowm is a clear evidence of what God meant it to be: A lesson that would lead the believers to faith, immunity and capability, and the unfaithful, criminals, traitors, evil and depraved, to abyss, weakness and humiliation.

"Today, special circumstances led the Iraqi army to withdraw because of different reasons including the aggression and abominable embargo carried out by 30 allied countries led by the criminal machine and entity in America and its chief ally.

"This evil violence found its efficiency not only in its preconceived aggressive intentions against Iraq and the Arab Nation and Islam, but also in the position of those who were fooled by the call of the international legality...

"The showdowm has been staged for years — with other means. It was an epic conflict between right and wrong, and we have elaborated this matter on another occasion.

"Everybody will remember that the gates of Constantinople were not opened to Muslims from the first attempt and that the cause of dear Palestine which has been

neglected by the international community is now again knocking at the closed doors to force them to solve it, no matter how hard the aggressors tried to obstruct this and thanks to the struggle of Palestinians and Iraqis.

"In addition, a solution for the Palestine cause is inevitable.

"Shout for victory, o brothers; shout for your victory and the victory of all honourable people, o Iraqis. You have fought 30 countries, and all the evil and the largest machine of war and destruction in the world that surrounds them.

"The soldiers of faith have triumphed over the soldiers of wrong, o stalwart men. Your God is the one who granted your victory.

"You have chosen the path which you have chosen, including the acceptance of the Soviet initiative, but those evildoers persisted in their path and methods, thinking that they can impose their will on Iraq, as they imagined and hoped.

"This hope of theirs may remain in their heads, even after we withdraw from Kuwait. Therefore, we must be cautious, and preparedness to fight must remain at the highest level.

"O you valiant men; you have fought the armies of 30 states and the capabilities of an even greater number of states which supplied them with the means of aggression and support. Faith, belief, hope, and determination continue to fill your chests, souls, and hearts. They have even become deeper, stronger, brighter, and more deeply rooted.

"May the lowly be defeated. Victory is sweet with the help of God."



Saddam Hussein

## Allies' ill-designs for Republican Guards

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuter

LONDON — The Gulf war allies are hoping to draw out Iraq's elite Republican Guard from defensive positions and to blast their tanks in the open with attack helicopters, military analysts say.

Reports on Monday that a column of Republican Guard tanks was on the move could mean the allies will be able to fight the battle on terms they prefer — mobile combat backed by air forces that are so far unchallenged in the skies.

The allies know that to be safe from counter-attack they have to get rid of the guard, Iraq's strategic reserve held just north of Kuwait.

Analysts say the allies are focusing on Iraqi armour because only tanks have enough mobility and punch to threaten coalition advances into Kuwait and Iraq.

"They certainly want to draw the Republican Guard out, where they can hit them hardest and don't have to worry about taking prepared defences," said Paul Beaver, publisher of the Jane's Defence Weekly.

Al allied sources claim the column of Republican Guard tanks that began moving south towards coalition forces on Monday was hit by U.S. Apache helicopters and ground strike aircraft.

Iraq had some 4,500 tanks in and around Kuwait before the war began, but military sources say allied air strikes may have destroyed around one-third of them before the ground war started.

Many are older T-55 or T-62 models.

The allies are confident that if it comes to an armoured clash in the open desert, their tanks will win.

The T-72 could be a close match for the U.S. M1A1 and British Challenger tanks. Although its fire control and range-finding systems are less sophisticated, the T-72 has a bigger gun and presents a smaller target.

But the allies still have one major advantage in any tank clash — command of the skies which allows their planes to bomb Iraqi positions and armoured columns at will.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### ICRC sends water purification supplies

LONDON (AP) — The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) send water purification supplies to Baghdad to cope with a serious shortage of drinking water in the city, a British official said. Overseas Aid Minister Lynda Chalker said in a parliamentary document that the Red Cross had informed the United Nations Sanctions Committee of the move after identifying a critical drinking water shortage in the Iraqi capital. Ms. Chalker said the U.N. committee is monitoring humanitarian circumstances in Iraq and Kuwait, but neither the Red Cross nor the UNICEF World Health Organisation team in Baghdad has been able to conduct a full assessment.

### Bombs explode outside bank in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Bombs exploded outside two local branches of Britain's Barclays Bank in Cyprus, causing light damage but no injuries, police said Tuesday. A device went off outside a branch in Nicosia Tuesday before bomb experts could defuse it, shattering windows. Another damaged a branch in the port city of Limassol on Monday night. The bank has been target of three attacks in Cyprus this month. Cyprus hosts a large British garrison involved in supporting troops in the U.S.-led coalition fighting Iraq. Police and army units have stepped up security since the Gulf war started on Jan. 17. On Feb. 2, a bomb damaged the offices of Barclays Bank and American Express in the port town of Larnaca.

### Morocco offers 80 volunteer doctors

RABAT (R) — Morocco has offered to send 80 volunteer doctors and surgeons and 74 nurses to Iraq, the Red Crescent said in a statement published Tuesday. A list of the volunteers and their specialties has been sent to the International Red Cross Committee and the Iraqi Red Crescent. The Moroccan Red Crescent has already sent nearly 100 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment to Iraq.

### Saudis ratify joint pact with Syria

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia has ratified an agreement to set up a joint commission with Syria to boost economic and political cooperation, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The commission was initially set up in Damascus Feb. 5 during a visit to Syria by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. SPA quoted Saudi Information Minister Ali Al Shaer as saying Monday that a royal decree to establish the committee was signed by King Fahd who chaired a cabinet session to discuss the Gulf war. Syria, long at odds with Iraq, has sent some 20,000 troops to help U.S.-led allied forces trying to evict Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The commission, to be headed by the foreign ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia, groups the ministers of finance, economy and information of both states.

## Oil well firefighters prepare for staggering job

NEW YORK (AP) — Extinguishing hundreds of burning oil wells in Kuwait will be the biggest job ever for three teams of renowned Texas firefighters who are ready to move into the emirate as soon as war ends.

"It's the worst we've ever seen," said Joe Bowden, president of Wild Well Control Inc. "We're probably looking at six months to a year."

As the ground war entered its fourth day Tuesday, the Iraqis reportedly had torched 500 wells in Kuwait, blackening the skies and filling the air with the stench of burning petroleum. By contrast, most bad oil fires only involve a handful of wells.

"It'll definitely be the most wells anybody's attempted to work on at a time," said Raymond Henry, vice president and senior firefighter for Red Adair Co. Inc. The biggest job he can remember came in the 1960s, when an Adair crew spent several weeks putting out five burning wells in Libya.

Adair and Wild Well Control, along with Boots and Coots Inc., the third major oil well firefighting company, have had one big advantage in preparing for the huge job — time.

All three of the Houston-based outfits contracted months ago with the Kuwaiti government, which has long suspected Iraqi troops would set fire to the oil wells on their way out of the country they seized Aug. 2.

Months of planning is an unprecedented luxury in the oil-fighting business, as crews generally have no notice before wells blow.

"There will be a lot larger availability of equipment," Mr. Henry said. "That's usually the time-consuming part. Preparations have been going on some time."

But crews will have to actually arrive at the scene of the burning wells before they can tell much about each blaze. Before that can happen, the military has to eject the Iraqis and clean up obstacles such as land mines, the firefighters said.

Some of the burning oil wells could be extinguished in a few hours, if the blaze is above valves that could be shut, cut-

## Bush's statement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here is the transcript of U.S. President George Bush's statement Tuesday morning in response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's radio statement announcing that Iraqi forces would withdraw from Kuwait:

"Saddam's most recent speech is an outrage. He is not withdrawing. His defeated forces are retreating. He is trying to claim victory in the midst of a rout. And he is not voluntarily giving up Kuwait.

"He is trying to save the remnants of power and control in the Middle East by every means possible. And here too, Saddam Hussein will fail.

"Saddam is not interested in peace, but only to regroup and fight another day. And he does not renounce Iraq's claim to Kuwait. To the contrary, he makes clear that Iraq continues to claim Kuwait. Nor is there any evidence of remorse for Iraq's aggression or any indication that Saddam is prepared to accept the responsibility for the awful consequences of that aggression.

"He still does not accept U.N. Security Council resolutions or the coalition terms of Feb. 22, including the release of our POWs, all POWs, third-country detainees, and an end to the pathological destruction of Kuwait.

"The coalition will therefore continue to prosecute the war with undiminished intensity. As we announced last night, we will not attack unarmed soldiers in retreat. We have no choice but to consider retreating combat units as a threat and respond accordingly. Anything else would risk additional United States and coalition casualties.

"The best way to avoid further casualties on both sides is for the Iraqi soldiers to lay down their arms as nearly 30,000 Iraqis already have. It is time for all Iraqi forces in the theatre of operation — those occupying Kuwait, those supporting the occupation of Kuwait — to lay down their arms. And that will take months, Mr. Bowden said.

"The companies said it was impossible to estimate the cost of squelching the fires.

Although the number of burning wells is unprecedented, an industry expert in New York said the extent of the damage to Kuwait's production will depend on which wells were damaged.

About 365 wells in Kuwait proper are the largest producers and would pose the greatest problems if they were burning, while an additional 400 to 500 wells in a neutral zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia do not pump nearly as much oil, said John Lichtenau, president of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation.

From the beginning of the air operation nearly six weeks ago, I have said that our efforts are on course and on schedule. This morning I am very pleased to say that coalition efforts are ahead of schedule. The liberation of Kuwait is close at hand.

"And let me just add that I share the pride of all of the American people in the magnificent, heroic performance of our armed forces. May God bless them and keep them."

## Huge new Gulf oil slick may pose biggest ecology threat

BAHRAIN (R) — U.S. coast-guard pilots have sighted a huge new oil slick in the northern Gulf beneath the polluting smoke pouring from fires in Kuwait.

Gulf environment officials said in Bahrain Tuesday the slick, about 100 kilometres due east of the Saudi-Kuwait border, could pose the biggest threat yet to the ecology and economy of the Gulf states.

"This is new," Abdullah Dabbagh, head of research at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, said at a meeting of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Environment (ROPME).

The Gulf environment is under assault from air and sea by the smoke and spills. Millions of marine creatures have been killed by the clinging, suffocating oil, and the air over the whole northern Gulf is an evil-smelling, bluish-black soup.

Gulf health officials have warned people with respiratory problems to stay out of the open air.

Mr. Dabbagh said that two days ago when 200 Kuwaiti wells were burning, he had recorded the dangerous pollutant sulphur dioxide four times higher than safety levels in some areas. Coalition officials say three to seven million barrels of oil spilled into the Gulf.

One of around 200,000 barrels, which would be considered a major disaster of its own anywhere else, is now floating roughly 80 kilometres due north of the Saudi town of Jubail. Mr. Dabbagh said this could drift to the sea north of Qatar by March 26.

The other much larger slick, which has hit Saudi beaches all along the coast near Jubail, could begin moving again. If it does, Mr. Dabbagh said it could circle around to the eastern Qatar coast after 30 days of drift.

Delegates said oil-eating vessels, which suck up the slicks, have removed around 100,000 barrels of crude from the sea. About six more specialist vessels from Germany are on the way, spills, Mr. Dabbagh told Reuters.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are stringing more booms across the inlets to protect essential water desalination and other water-using plants, which the oil could put out of action.

## Egyptian students protest war, death of colleague

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian students held a third day of protest against the Gulf war Tuesday to voice the death of a colleague in clashes with riot police.

Several hundred students poured off Cairo University campus on Tuesday chanting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak you coward, you are an American agent."

The students earlier chanted: "Khaled, Khaled you martyr, your blood will not go to waste."

Khaled Mohammad Abdul Aziz died on teargas suffocation after a fierce clash Monday between riot police and several hundred Cairo University students protesting at the Gulf war.

Protesters said a second student had died in Monday's clashes but security officers denied the allegation.

Marches and public demonstrations are banned under emergency laws in force since Muslim zealots killed President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Smaller anti-war campus demonstrations were also held in Ain Shams University in Cairo and Mansoura University in the Nile Delta Tuesday.

Riot police were deployed at all three universities and no fresh clashes were reported, security sources said.

A senior state security officer told Reuters police would resume firing tear gas if students tried to take their protest to the streets.

Police fired barrages of tear-gas Monday at the Cairo University students and then charged in armoured trucks when students poured off the campus and began throwing stones.

Eight policemen were taken injured and at least 19 students were arrested and 20 taken to hospital, witnesses said.

The security officer said the 19 students were currently being questioned "and their indictment sheet is going to be a long one."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

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Girls demonstrate near the U.S. embassy in Amman (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Emotion-charged demonstrators hail Saddam, Iraqis

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of demonstrators, mainly women and children briefly clashed with riot police on Tuesday, on their way from the Iraqi embassy to the American embassy.

Riot police, poised at the Second Circle prevented the marchers from proceeding to the American embassy. The demonstrators, frustrated by the American-led campaign against their brothers in Iraq, tried to penetrate the line of riot police, but were intercepted.

One young man, who walked in the front lines of the demonstration, was hit by one of the riot policemen's clubs, fracturing his arm. No other injuries were reported.

Earlier, the group of young children and women had gathered in front of the Iraqi embassy in a show of support and solidarity with the Iraqi people and leadership. The women shouted pro-Iraqi slogans, and severely condemned the apparent aim of the American-led forces, which is seen as the total destruction of Iraq.

Some women, who openly cried, let out some of their frustration on a number of foreign reporters who ventured out on Tuesday. They accused the reporters of being biased and having double standards in dealing with the Arabs especially during this crisis. "I watch television and I know what kind of reporting you do. It is all lies," shouted an 18 year old girl, at a group of foreign reporters who were trying to film the demonstrations. "Take these

puppet leaders we have back to America, you live with them, we don't want them anymore, we are decent, respectable Arabs," another woman said.

"Long live President Saddam Hussein, long live the heroic Iraqi people," "with our souls and our blood we will fight for Saddam," shouted the crowds in apparent rage at what they perceive to be a major massacre and genocide of the Iraqi people. "They want to humiliate Saddam Hussein, but they will never do that, he will live on in our hearts forever," said another woman, who broke out in tears.

The demonstrators, carrying only Iraqi flags and pictures of President Saddam Hussein, held banners that read "Iraq we salute you," "Bush is a killer," "the masks of treachery have been lifted."

One young Iraqi man, who has ten brothers serving in the Iraqi front, stood with the Iraqi flag amid the demonstration reflecting an inner sense of pride. "We (Iraqis) stood up for more than one month in the face of more than thirty nations, and survived, this is a victory for us," he said. He also added "we support Saddam Hussein, and he will never bow. We will respect him and protect him with our lives."

The young man, who preferred anonymity, said that he was a student at the University of Jordan, and that his family was still in Iraq. What if some of your brothers die in combat, he was asked, "then they died an honorable death, martyrs defending the soil of their homeland," he answered proudly.

## Driver says civilians hit on Baghdad-Amman road

RUEWEISHEH, Jordan (R) — A Jordanian truck driver returning from Iraq said a number of civilians were wounded in an allied air attack on the Baghdad-Amman highway before dawn Tuesday.

Qassam Tayel said he had watched a plane fire a salvo of four rockets at civilian cars during the raid in the Al Kutiba area, 170 kilometres east of the Jordanian border, around 2 a.m. (midnight GMT).

"I saw a plane fire four rockets at the same time ... aiming them at civilian cars on the highway," he told Reuters at Jordan's Rueweisheh border entry post. "Many people were injured but I did not count them," he said. Tayel had been in a convoy of three trucks and three ambulances that had taken medical supplies to Baghdad three days ago.

More refugees from war-torn Kuwait arrived Tuesday after leaving as allied troops launched their ground attack on Sunday.

Eight busloads of Egyptians from Baghdad crossed the border to await transport home from a refugee transit camp.

Imad Saad, a Jordanian said: "We were verred because the fire coming from burning oil wells formed a huge cloud over Kuwait. At night it was like a burning ball."

Arriving refugees, like those the day before, said they knew nothing of allegations that Iraqi soldiers had shot Kuwaiti civilians and committed other atrocities.

## Gulf Peace Team delivers 'petition for peace' to U.S. embassy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the Gulf Peace Team delivered a "petition for peace" to the American embassy in Amman Tuesday.

The brief statement calling for an immediate end to the bombing of Iraq and Kuwait ... was signed by Gulf Peace Team members representing ten countries: Belgium, Canada, France, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Romania, Scotland, Britain and the United States.

The one-page statement was hand delivered at 4:23 p.m. inside the American embassy by Gulf Peace Team members Andrew P. Jones from Boston, Massachusetts; Rube Irwin from Washington D.C. and Kathy Kellogg from Chicago, Illinois. It was

## Disbelief, anger and despair prevail

# Iraqi withdrawal under continued bombardment shocks Jordanians

By Marian M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians Tuesday received news of Iraq's decision to withdraw its troops out of Kuwait with mixed feelings of anger, disbelief and despair.

In the morning, as foreign agency dispatches and radio stations spoke of the Baghdad announcement as a "fait accompli," many Jordanians still thought the Iraqi announcement on Baghdad Radio was only a ploy. "The announcement just said 'this is Radio Baghdad' while all previous official announcements were always made in the name of the Revolutionary Command Council, so this is an allied trick," said Sami Jundi, a taxi driver. But as 11:00 o'clock approached and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein personally told his people of the Iraqi leadership's decision on Radio Baghdad, reality dawned on most stunned Jordanians.

Recalling how, in the early hours of Jan. 17, they had been made by Western media to think that Iraq had been destroyed after the first day of air bombardment, many Jordanians tuned in on radio station after radio station in order to find reports to the contrary. But such reports were filed by no one.

One Lower House deputy called Iraq's position a victorious one. "Iraq emerged victorious after a 40-day battle," said independent Deputy Fakhri Kawar. Kawar said that he had, however, been surprised that the ground battle for Kuwait had lasted only two days. "We did not think the allies would be defeated but we expected a longer ground battle," he said.

While most Jordanians were too numb and shocked and unwilling to speak, even to the Arab press about how they felt, some

Islamist Deputy Yacoub Garash said that he still had confidence in the competence of the Iraqi leadership and said that Saddam Hussein could not be blamed for the turn of events because, "we, the Arabs failed to come to his side."

Some Jordanians expressed bitterness that Saddam Hussein did not fulfill his promise of turning the battle for Kuwait the "mother of the battles."

"I can't believe that they only lasted two days in the ground battle, after all that he (Saddam Hussein) told us, I'm shocked," said Sumeia Shaker.

Some people predicted that bitterness and resentment towards the West will increase in most parts of the Arab World, and Jordan in particular. "Because of a feeling of humiliation, people will lash out at the West after this is over," said Yousef Maher, a psychologist.

Newspaper columnist Mueness Razzaz predicted that strong liberation movements will emerge in the post-war era just as they had in the post-1967 period. "We will see other extremist groups emerging all over the region," Razzaz said.

Nasser Abu Samra, 28, said "I think he was courageous to withdraw instead of just burning all of Kuwait as he said he would, this is really more honourable." Other young men reacted differently.

Dozens of young men hurried to the local recruitment centre for the Arab-Islamic corps in the hope that their recruitment would somehow turn the tide of events.

"By linkage we thought we could all be happy," said Emman, a 30-year-old Palestinian teacher. "Now they will link us to the ovens to burn our dreams of



NEWS: Jordanians cling to radios to digest every word being broadcast Tuesday on the Gulf war. (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



justice in Palestine," she added cynically.

Some people thought that one could not say that the war was over. "Let us wait and see what

will happen, this could be the beginning of another battle," said Imad Jarrar.

"Saddam is retreating and now his troops may have to fight so that the allies don't occupy Iraq," said Dabbagh, fearing the "mother of battles" may still be fought, "not in Kuwait City but in Baghdad."

## Arabiyat asks Arab parliamentarians to help unify Arab ranks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has called on the Arab parliaments to help reunify Arab ranks and contain the current aggression on the Iraqi people and abort Israel's designs in the occupied Palestinian land.

In Jordan's view, differences among Arabs can be settled under the Arab umbrella and through inter-Arab cooperation and common understanding. Otherwise, if the Arab issues are internationalised the Arab and Islamic worlds can be dealt severe blows with detrimental consequences, said Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabyat.

Addressing an Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting in Algiers, Dr. Arabiyat focused Arab parliamentarians' attention on the situation in the Gulf region and the occupied Arab lands.

In the face of the onslaught on the Arab and Islamic countries one can unfortunately see Arab states aligning their policies with and siding by the enemy and competing with one another in order to try to achieve the enemy's interests said Arabiyat.

He said that the Gulf war was designed to destroy Iraq and the

Arab military might although Baghdad has been bidding for peace.

He said that it was time for the Arab and Islamic countries to join hands and settle the crisis to avoid further bloodshed.

Referring to the situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories, Arabiyat said that the cold war has ended in Europe with great benefits for Israel which has secured the continued flow of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

The United States, which is supporting and facilitating the immigration of Jews to Palestine, has been helping Israel to set up settlements to house them and helping the Israeli forces to evict the Palestinian population from Palestine, said Arabiyat.

He said that the continued flow of Soviet Jews into Palestine was bound to have detrimental effects on the future of the region in general and Palestine and its people in particular.

What is required from the Arab and Islamic countries, Arabiyat said, is unity of ranks and concerted efforts to contain the onslaught on Iraq and stave off the danger represented in continued occupation of Arab land in Palestine.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### March in support of Iraq to be held tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — A march will be held here Thursday to show support for Iraq against America and its allies. The march will start from the Abdali car complex and will end in Al Hashimia court passing through Salt street in downtown Amman. Addressing the march, which will coincide with other marches in various Arab capitals, will be the Professional Associations Board Chairman Tayseer Homsi.

### Citizen donates JD 200,000 to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian citizen has donated an ambulance car as well as JD 200,000 to the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society, for delivery to the Iraqi Red Crescent and Committee.

### Minister stresses religious teachings

ZARQA (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Ibrahim Zeid Kilani stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation among all citizens, saying that their cooperation would ensure continued strength and progress. At a meeting with the governor and department directors in Zarqa governorate, Kilani called for strengthening the role of schools in graduating successive generations of the faithful. He called on Muslim graduate youth to serve as preachers at mosques and to enlighten people of the teachings of their religion.

### New book on Jordan goes on market

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's History Committee has issued a new book entitled "The Contemporary Political History of Jordan between 1952 and 1967," written by Hazem Nuseibeh. The book, which is the second of a series issued by the committee, deals with a decisive stage in the history of Jordan, starting with His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne in 1952.

## Iranian official looks forward to boosting ties with Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iran, having resumed diplomatic relations with Jordan after a 10-year break, is looking forward to building strong relations with the Kingdom based on mutual trust and respect, the first Iranian diplomat to take up post here since 1981 said Tuesday.

"There is a lot of possibilities for cooperation in all fields and levels, and we are looking forward to exploring all means and ways towards establishing a strong relationship with Jordan," said Nara Ghian, who arrived late Sunday to reopen the Islamic Republic's diplomatic mission here.

He said that the continued flow of Soviet Jews into Palestine was bound to have detrimental effects on the future of the region in general and Palestine and its people in particular.

What is required from the Arab and Islamic countries, Ghian said, is unity of ranks and concerted efforts to contain the onslaught on Iraq and stave off the danger represented in continued occupation of Arab land in Palestine.

Mr. Ghian, who holds the rank of charge d'affaires and will head the mission here until Tehran formally names an ambassador to Jordan, noted that Jordan and Iran were bound by the common religion, Islam.

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## Figuring out the obvious

THE SOVIET Communist Party hit it on the nail Monday when its official newspaper Pravda described the U.S.-led allied ground assault on Iraq as a drive for world hegemony. The question that remains is why it took Moscow so long to figure out the obvious. Certainly the Soviet leaders acknowledge that it was also instrumental in granting Washington and its allies a green light in the first place to move military into the Gulf by supporting the various U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted against Iraq, especially Resolution 678. That resolution was exploited and prostituted to the limit by the West in order to facilitate the achievement of the U.S. ambition to become the sole leader of the world.

For the Soviet leadership to come out now and cry wolf is maybe too late and too little. The war in the Gulf is entering its final stage and there is very little that the Soviet Union can do now to salvage the situation that brought it also harm, disgrace and humiliation. Where one would openly disagree with Pravda's Monday report that a prolonged ground war in the Gulf could undermine President Mikhail Gorbachev's standing at home and abroad is that the defiant and arrogant rejection of Gorbachev's peace proposals to end the Gulf war by President George Bush and his allies has already dealt the Soviet leader a devastating blow. Surely the damage to the Soviet Union and its leadership has already occurred with or without a long war. The only thing left for the Soviet Union to do in order to redeem its dwindling prestige in the eyes of the nations that still pin some hope on it is to prevent the kind of surrender and humiliation that Washington and its partners seems to be insisting on inflicting on Iraq and its leadership.

All that is asked of Moscow is to tell the West that enough is enough and that it is prepared to put all its weight behind the efforts to spare Iraq from the designs and conspiracies of Washington, London and Paris. There are many ways available to the Soviets to do just that, the least of which is to have the Security Council abort the continuing conspiracies of the West. As Pravda admitted Monday, the West seeks not only political and military hegemony in the world, especially in the Gulf region, but also economic clout in order to control even the world economy and make it subservient to its needs and priorities. This is finding expression in the contracts being given to Western companies to reconstruct Kuwait and Saudi Arabia even before the war has ended.

Meanwhile the Arab World is called upon to draw the necessary conclusions from the Gulf crisis and the war what ensued from it. There are many lessons to be learned from the Gulf situation, above all how to deal with its aftermath. It is premature to prescribe effective antidotes for the catastrophe that befalls the Arabs at large and some painstaking analysis and soul searching need to be done first before final pronouncement can be made on it.

What saddens us most in the unravelling situation in the Gulf war is the reality that it is Arab money and resources and people that were and are being used to wreak havoc on another Arab country, Iraq. It is doubtful that the Arab allies in the U.S.-led coalition would ever admit this reality, or accept responsibility in destroying what represented Arab aspirations to life in freedom and dignity, away from foreign tutelage and domination.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE is a real competition between the United States, Britain and France in their show of resentment and hatred of the Arab and Muslim people, but the millions of Arabs and Muslims realise that there is no difference between these colonial powers in terms of their loss of all values and meaning of honour, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The paper said for the Arabs and Muslims these three powers represent barbarism and aggression which resulted in the massacring of innocent women and children and the destruction of churches and mosques and shelters. Britain and the United States have all along proved determined to remain loyal to their colonial ideologies, but France which was transformed into a peace-loving nation by Charles de Gaulle in the 1960s is now taking a U-turn under the socialist regime, and adopting all forms of policies that can only display French hatred of Arabs and Muslims, and can show the real racist nature of the French people and their leaders, the paper noted. In pursuit of its new policies, the French government has just taken a decision to stifle the Islamic broadcasting station in Marseilles and to deprive 200,000 Muslims of the right to have their own schools and to learn their own language and religion, the paper noted. It said that by taking an active part in the aggression on Iraq, France has proved to be the true model of a country subjugated to and under the mercy of a superpower like the United States. Despite President Mitterrand's statement expressing pride in taking a decision ordering his troops to take part in the ground offensive on Iraq, the Arabs realise that the decision was American and that the orders came from Washington and not Paris, said the paper. All France's behaviour during and before the war indicates that Paris has lost all of its will power and its independent policy.

Now that everybody realises that Israel is the sole beneficiary from the Gulf war, one has to remember that it was Jordan which had right from the start tried to prevent the conflict and to contain the issue and has been relentless in its endeavours to prevent any Arab country from being involved in the crisis, said Al Dustour daily Tuesday. Jordan was one of the Arab countries which refused to take a bribe or sell out its honour and dignity, and one that has been calling for an Arab-Arab dialogue to find an acceptable formula for a settlement, said the paper. In response to its stand and for its efforts to avert any war in the Gulf, Jordan became the subject for attack, for harassment and for economic sanctions imposed by certain Arab and foreign nations, the paper continued.

# Peter and crew head north; the war goes on, and we pray

By Geraldine Sharpe Newton

THE house is in the middle of English countryside sheltered by the branches of an old cedar tree. Now the daffodils are pushing their heads through the snow hoping to be in blossom for an English spring. My fiance, Yorkshire born Peter Bluff, CBS news London bureau chief, left home when the ground was brown and hard. He spent New Year in Baghdad and headed to Saudi Arabia before the Jan. 15 deadline. He did not believe there would be a war.

I woke up on the first Sunday of the war, Jan. 20, to a blue sky, a perfect English countryside day, and knew with some kind of premonition that my world was never going to be the same again.

On Jan. 21, four CBS journalists went missing on the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait: Correspondent Bob Simon, cameraman Roberto Alvarez, soundman Juan Caldera and producer Peter Bluff.

When Peter and the crew

went "up the road" four weeks ago, it was a different conflict. During those heady "quick victory" days, several journalists were operating outside "pool" restrictions. The road was busy. There was the feeling that it would be over in 72 hours. The French television network TF1 as well as other cameramen and journalists had been to the border. The allied military briefings told us the Iraqi air force was weak and Iraqi Scud launchers were being destroyed. The Independent ran a front page story about allied soldiers without maps. Under these circumstances, Peter and Bob had drawn up plans to go to the border.

Peter and Bob are experienced journalists. Both have earned the high esteem of their fellow journalists. Both men have won international news Emmy awards. They were relaxed about the journey. All four men had gone "up the road" before in Vietnam. Beirut, Central America and

all over the Middle East. Journalists work that way, attempting to go a bit further so that we at home actually know what is happening at the front, or on the other side.

Peter Bluff, Bob Simon, Roberto Alvarez and Juan Caldera wanted to tell us something new, to report on what the fight was for. They wanted to give a sense of a border that has no tree, nothing that is green. Just a road that leads into a changing beige landscape of desert.

The Saudi military found their car 72 hours after they left. In the car they found luggage, some cash, some camera gear, Juan Caldera's Nicaraguan passport, crisps and gas mask.

My days are different now. There is no future time, no planning for next week, just each new day looming ahead. Each day has people to talk to, advice to seek, letters to write, strategy to contemplate and activate or reject. On the 31st day, Feb. 21, there was no-

thing special to do. I divide those 24 hours into blocks, morning, afternoon and darkness. My time is based on Gulf daylight hoping there may be another announcement.

I heard the first news on Feb. 15. CBS called at five minutes to eleven and my great friend and colleague Jack Smith out: "put on CNN, Peter Arnett has word on the men."

I stood in my office surrounded by my staff and heard, "I have good news to report today. I can confirm that the CBS news

staff reported missing in Saudi Arabia-Kuwait border several weeks ago are being held in Baghdad by the Iraqi government. I'm told that the four are still being investigated by the Iraqi intelligence service to determine the full circumstances of their capture and to make a recommendation on the disposition of the cases."

They were alive, they were well. I was numb with relief. I thought, is this it, are we finally going to see them? Is it over? I saw on the computer

screen a single short line from the AP announcing "Iraq to pull out of Kuwait." The four CBS journalists slipped out of sight as the bigger news took over. They would understand wherever they were that they were no longer the lead. We have to keep waiting.

In the morning I'm at my most hopeful but as the day advances one realises that the window for another announcement slowly slips away. With the darkness, the bombing and another day is lost.

The American poet Robert Frost in his poem "The Road Not Taken" wrote "Two roads diverged in a wood and I... took the one less travelled by and that has made all the difference." That grey morning, Jan. 20, the road the CBS men took went a bit too far.

As so we wait, the war continues and we pray for peace.

The writer is head of press and public affairs at the British Independent Television News, ITN. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

## U.N. and the Gulf — abysmal failure

By Anthony Goodman  
Reuter

UNITED NATIONS — When the guns began to roar in the Gulf early on Sunday, U.N. Security Council members huddled for less than an hour before deciding — some with anguish, others with relief — that there was nothing further they could do for the present.

Was this an abysmal dereliction of duty on the part of an organisation established on the ashes of World War II to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war?"

Or had the United Nations already performed as its founders intended?

In the months that followed President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait last Aug. 2, the Security Council fired off a dozen resolutions condemning Iraq, demanding its withdrawal, fashioning an ever-tightening noose of economic sanctions and, finally, authorising the use of force after a Jan. 15 deadline.

This, many observers said, was the role the United Nations had been intended to perform but had been prevented from doing because of the cold war.

Before the advent of President Mikhail Gorbachev and the dawn of perestroika, the Soviet Union might well have used its veto in the Security Council to shelter Iraq, a long-time ally and arms purchaser, from the harshest consequences of its invasion.

Only once before, in 1950, when Moscow was boycotting the Security Council over U.N. failure to seat the newly installed communist Chinese government, had the world body authorised the use of force, against North Korea.

But if the Soviet Union, for a variety of reasons, kept in

step with its new-found American friend, other members of the council had their doubts from the start.

Yemen, the only Arab member, and Cuba, locked in enmity with the United States, either abstained or voted against a number of the resolutions.

And China abstained on the key use-of-force resolution.

Many observers said the council was being transformed into an instrument of the U.S.-led coalition bent on using any means to roll back and then smash the Iraqi leader.

But the council's actions were gradual, leaving time for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to use his extensive diplomatic skills to persuade Iraq to withdraw.

A meeting in Amman last summer with Iraqi Foreign

Minister Tareq Aziz and an encounter in Baghdad with President Saddam Hussein shortly before the Jan. 15 use-of-force deadline, reportedly proved fruitless.

On Saturday, after five weeks of intensive air attacks, Iraq accepted at a Soviet plan for a ceasefire, to be followed by a three-week pullout and then the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

But the Soviet terms were termed "unacceptable" to the U.S.-led alliance, which the day before had set a noon est (1700 GMT) Saturday deadline for the start of a large-scale Iraqi withdrawal. This was to be completed within one week, with all U.N. sanctions remaining in place.

Throughout Saturday, desultory attempts were made by the Soviet Union and non-

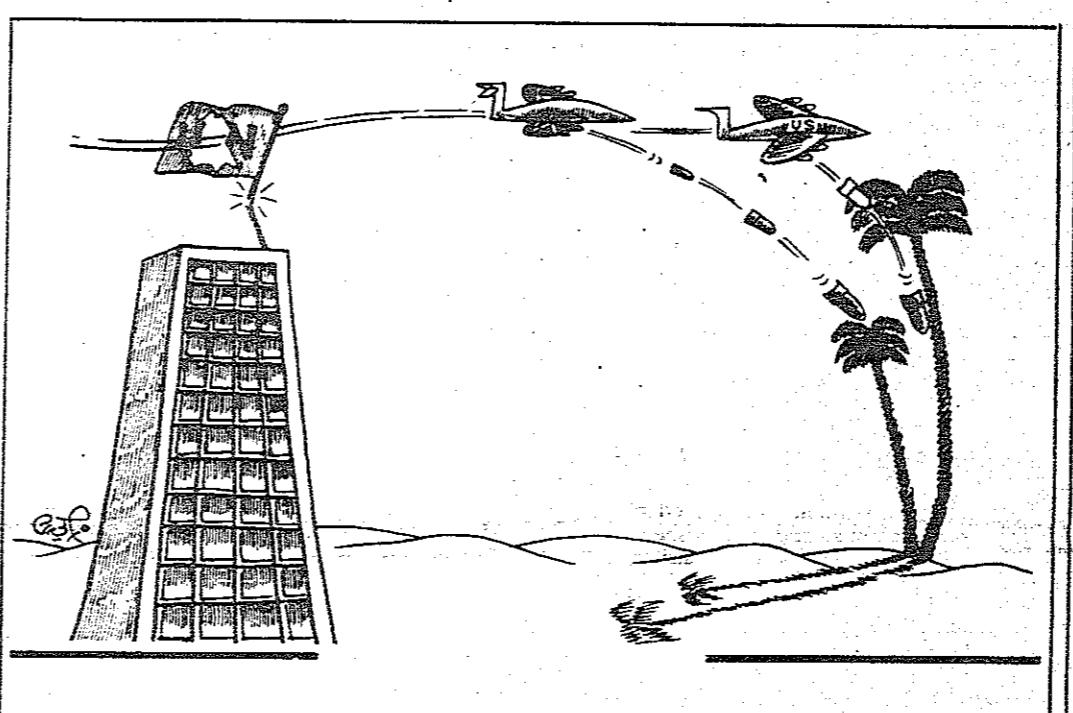
aligned council members to try to reconcile the divergent terms set by Moscow and Washington.

The talking continued through the ultimatum deadline and into the night.

Then, as diplomats were finishing dinner, came word of the start of the ground offensive.

As they trooped back to the United Nations for another round of private consultations, it was apparent the council could do nothing further, at least for now.

"It is a sad day for the United Nations. The Security Council is the first victim of this ground war," said ambassador Abdalla Al Ashtal of Yemen. "The council is eclipsed at this point. It is on the periphery."



## Bush targets Saddam in arousing U.S. support for Gulf war

By Laurence McQuillan  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President George Bush is using war passions to whip up the emotions of Americans against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein — turning the international conflict into a personal grudge match between two men who disdain each other.

Bush, who shifts to compassionate tones when describing the Iraqi people, does little to conceal his contempt for their leader — whose name he spits out as soon as it forms on his lips.

Bush charged that at the same time Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was seeking a last-minute peaceful solution. "Saddam Hussein was launching Scud missiles" against Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The personalised nature of the attacks have paid off in broad public support from a nation still scarred by the memories and pain of a long and fruitless debacle in Vietnam.

President Saddam, for his part, has branded Bush as "treacherous" and "despicable," and urged his countrymen to join in a "holy war" against the "infidel."

Bush's personal dislike of Saddam, which aides say borders on

an obsession, flares publicly in angry bars tossed at the man rather than his minions.

"Saddam has now launched a scorched-earth policy against Kuwait," Bush said in setting the deadline for withdrawal from Kuwait.

The unmet ultimatum was also personalised — it was Saddam not the Iraqis that Bush ordered out of Kuwait by noon EST (1700 GMT) Saturday deadline — and quickly followed by the massive allied ground assault.

Bush charged that at the same time Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was seeking a last-minute peaceful solution. "Saddam Hussein was launching Scud missiles" against Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The personalised nature of the attacks have paid off in broad public support from a nation still scarred by the memories and pain of a long and fruitless debacle in Vietnam.

Many Americans questioned whether the national will would ever again allow for combat in a far off land that had no immediate links to the United States.

A public opinion poll published on Sunday found that 81 per cent of Americans approve of the war with Iraq, with 61 per cent of them endorsing the need to enter its ground phase.

The most telling response in the survey conducted for the Washington Post and the ABC television network, however, was to the objective of the war.

Only 26 per cent felt the overriding goal should be the ouster of Iraq from Kuwait, the official aim of U.S. policy. The majority joined Bush in his personal feud, with 71 per cent seeking Saddam's removal.

Bush and the members of his administration have gone out of their way to draw a distinction between Saddam and the country he leads.

"I'm reluctant to predict what will happen inside Iraq," said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney during a broadcast interview on Sunday.

"Clearly, this is a man who has made some tremendous misjudgments," Cheney said. "He has to make more significant mis-

judgments than any individual in modern times."

"He's put his country through terrible travail for absolutely no purpose whatsoever," said on the CBS television programme "Face the nation."

"I can't conceive of a situation in which a man like that would still be governing his country after those kinds of disasters," he said.

Bush, after dodging questions about ousting Saddam from power for the first six months of the crisis, publicly proposed the idea in recent days.

He asked the Iraqi people, particularly the military, to "take matters into their own hands and force Saddam Hussein, the dictator, to step aside."

Bush called such a move, tied with withdrawal from Kuwait, a way to "instantly stop the bloodshed."

A U.S. administration official, asked to explain why Bush spoke publicly about a thought he had kept private, said: "Saddam got to him."

## LETTERS

### You never know

To the Editor:

IT is with great pleasure that I relate the following circumstances. Rarely in my travels, have I been so impressed with what I've seen.

First, let me say that being of African descent, I have a natural affinity with those who like me have dark skins and woolly heads. That doesn't mean that I reject others, it just means that given the history of slavery and oppression around the world perpetrated against the man who's skin is black, that this has created a common, if not distant emotional bond between us.

During my stay here I was fortunate enough to visit a school attended by children of prominent officials. The occasion was a bazaar, a day of celebration put on the school's PTA which was trying to raise money for aid to Iraqi children. The event was well attended and well organised. The children's fashion show and choir concerts were particularly inspiring.

The halls of the school were decorated with art work and essays done by students at the school. The common themes were peace and war expressed through letters to Bush and colourful paintings depicting the children's ideas about the Gulf war.

It was in this context that I met Mohammad Sati, a slim handsome Palestinian who could easily be mistaken for an African-American. We struck up a conversation and as it happens a lot of the work was done by his students in the school. I asked him if I could come to his class, as I was at the time shooting a documentary on children of Amman, Jordan. I had already been to another school.

I arrived at his school a couple of days later and he introduced me to his

## Jordan

(Continued from page 1)  
disaster as a result of their being deprived of water, food, medicine and power.

Forty days of intense bombardment of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities have crippled Iraq, and reports have underlined the looming threat of epidemics as a result of people forced to consume contaminated water. There is also an acute shortage of medicine as well as foodstuff, according to reports.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Masri contacted several of his Arab counterparts over the phone and exchanged views with them on the "necessary steps to be taken at this stage to arrange a ceasefire to end the fighting and support efforts to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 660," Petra said.

The council was meeting Tuesday evening, and Iraq and the Soviet Union were reported to have informed council members earlier in the day of the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Mr. Masri also contacted Jordan's permanent representative at the U.N. Abdullah Salah and asked him to coordinate efforts with Arab and other ambassadors at the world body, including those of the five permanent members of the Security Council, to bring about a ceasefire in the war, the agency added.

There was no official statement by late Tuesday on the situation in the Gulf war.

American-led allied forces continued attacks on Iraqi troops withdrawing from Kuwait to southern Iraq after U.S. President George Bush rejected the Iraqi pullout, announced by President Saddam Hussein earlier in the day.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izeddin, in an informal press briefing Tuesday morning, said that the most important thing in Jordan's view at this point is to bring about a ceasefire in the war so that the Iraqi troops can withdraw from Kuwait in an orderly manner.

In Algiers, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday urged Soviet, European and Arab support for a ceasefire in the Gulf.

He told reporters after talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid that the United States and its allies must be stopped from continuing the war, after Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

"The important thing is that Arab, Islamic, Soviet and certain European efforts be united to achieve a ceasefire and reach a global peace in the region," he was quoted as saying by the Algerian news agency APS.

He said that "the objective of this war is not to liberate Kuwait but to attack the Iraqi people, destroy its military forces, impose the new American order and enslave this region."

"The situation requires more than ever a firm position by the Arab World alongside Iraq to at least stop this mad war of vengeance which has destroyed the infrastructure of Iraq and exceeded United Nations resolutions," Mr. Arafat said.

Also in Algiers, Sudanese leader 'Omar Hassan Al Bashir praised Baghdad's decision to withdraw from Kuwait but said allied forces would probably press on with the Gulf war.

General Bashir told a news conference the allies still wanted to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein but he said he hoped the U.S.-led coalition would accept a

ceasefire.

"There is a serious attempt by our brothers in Iraq to stop the destruction and bloodletting," Gen. Bashir said.

"We hope the allied forces respond positively to this demand but we expect they will insist on fighting further because their goal has developed into a change of the regime in Iraq."

He said it had become clear that the allies wanted nothing short of a total Iraqi surrender, not what he called a tactical retreat "to preserve Iraqi forces."

Ibiza said it will not tolerate allied attacks on Iraq following its acceptance to quit Kuwait.

The official Libya news agency JANA quoted Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohammad Al Bishari as saying: "After Iraq's decision to completely and unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait, it is unacceptable to continue to chase Iraq and pursue the war against it."

## Al Khobar

(Continued from page 1)

destroyed an Iraqi missile fired towards the island overnight.

"Ground defences detected an Iraqi missile directed towards Bahrain and it was destroyed," the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency (GNA) quoted a military spokesman as saying.

There was no damage.

A missile fired at Doha, capital of Qatar, came down in an uninhabited area, Saudi Radio reported.

"The Iraqi aggressor last night fired a missile in the direction of Doha," the Qatari News Agency said the missile fell in an uninhabited area and that no damage was caused," the radio reported.

The Soviet statement came after Saddam Hussein said on Baghdad Radio his forces were leaving Kuwait and declared the emirate is no longer part of Iraq.

"It is everyone's interest that the war end today," said Vitaly Ignatenko, spokesman for President Gorbachev. "Saddam Hussein has practically thrown out the white flag. He has capitulated."

Mr. Ignatenko said Cuba and Yemen supported an immediate ceasefire during a closed meeting of the U.N. Security Council, but the United States and Belgium sought a postponement to obtain "firm guarantees that Iraq (will) comply with all resolutions of the Security Council."

The White House Tuesday sharply criticised President Saddam's statement, saying it "contains the same diatribe as his comments, with no commitment to comply with the 12 United Nations resolutions."

"The war goes on," Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in Washington. The White House also rejected an earlier Baghdad Radio declaration of the withdrawal, insisting President Saddam personally announce Iraq's defeat and promise to pay war reparations. It also said Iraq must lay down its arms.

In the earlier briefing Tuesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov said: "We hope that wisdom, common sense and our conscience would tell us that this chance should be duly used in order to put an end to bloodshed. All the necessary prerequisites are thus created for such an outcome."

The envoy said President Saddam sent a message to Mr. Gorbachev late Monday saying Iraqi troops had begun withdrawing from Kuwait.

Mr. Belonogov, who has been closely involved in Soviet-Iraqi peace negotiations, quoted the message as saying all Iraqi troops would be gone "in a very limited time frame" which he would not define.

He said that at President Saddam's request, the Soviet ambassador at the United Nations was instructed to propose "an immediate decision on the issue of a ceasefire."

Mr. Belonogov said Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz delivered the presidential message to the Soviet embassy in Baghdad. The message was immediately relayed to the White House and to the Security Council, he said.

"We would like to hope that such a declaration of the Security Council would be unanimous and that it would facilitate the

and the Soviet Union, which was Baghdad's chief arms supplier for two decades.

Both countries condemned the invasion and backed economic sanctions against Iraq. The Soviet Union, while maintaining close contacts with Baghdad, also backed a U.N. resolution endorsing the use of force.

Both as the conflict escalated to an all-out land attack by the U.S.-led coalition, Soviet officials expressed growing concern Washington's policies could cause destabilization in the region.

Soviet-U.S. relations have also been strained by Moscow's military action against the rebel Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia as well as disputes over arms control.

The Soviet Union said Tuesday it believes Iraq's announced withdrawal from Kuwait satisfies "all interested parties" in the Gulf war, and urged the United Nations to call an immediate ceasefire.

The Soviet statement came after Saddam Hussein said on Baghdad Radio his forces were leaving Kuwait and declared the emirate is no longer part of Iraq.

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"We would like to hope that such a declaration of the Security Council would be unanimous and that it would facilitate the

speediest possible end to bloodshed and an end to hostilities," Mr. Belonogov said.

"We proceed from the premise that this new step on the part of the Iraqi leadership would satisfy all interested parties," Mr. Belonogov said. He said Iraq "is not posing any pre-conditions" for withdrawing.

## Saddam

(Continued from page 1)  
coming night hours," said the Iraqi military spokesman.

Declaring Iraq had scored a moral victory over the allies, President Saddam went on Baghdad Radio to say all troops would be back inside Iraq by midnight (2100 GMT), Tuesday.

"This day... our great armed forces will continue its withdrawal from Kuwait and complete it on this day," President Saddam said in his mid-morning address.

His 30-minute speech, partly drowned out by wailing air raid sirens, lauded the bravery of Iraqi forces.

"You have faced 30 countries and the evil they have brought here... you have faced the whole world brave Iraqis," he declared. "You have won... you are victorious."

President Saddam said that Kuwait — which he declared Iraq's 19th province after last August's invasion — was no longer part of Iraq from Monday night.

President Saddam said the Palestinian "problem will be solved by the will of (the Palestinian) people at another time."

President Saddam accused the multinational coalition, "led by the treacherous president of America," of practicing "predetermined aggression against Iraq and the Arab Nation and the Islamic World."

"We have seen no indication they are laying down their weapons," said Gen. Neal.

"Quite the opposite, we are engaged with them; we are in pursuit of them; they're stopping and fighting. We are overwhelming them and defeating them in place."

A senior Pentagon official quoted in the Washington Post on Tuesday said U.S. strategy is to capture the strategic southeastern portion of Iraq and retain the territory as a bargaining chip during peace talks.

The United States expects to finish the war "in possession of a large chunk of southeastern Iraq," the official told the newspaper.

This strategy also is intended to undermine President Saddam and his government, senior administration officials said.

Baghdad Radio reported that President Saddam had visited his troops to be briefed on preparations to "repel any aggressive attempt aimed at undermining Iraq."

Military sources in Washington said U.S. troops racing across southern Iraq had reached the Euphrates River and cut off the Iraqi line of retreat.

Some 500,000 of the Iraqi soldiers — half the army, including the Republican Guards — were trapped in the war zone, according to Western military sources in Saudi Arabia.

In Paris, French military sources said their troops had advanced some 160 kilometers into Iraq from Saudi Arabia. France had said that its troops would not enter Iraqi territory.

Military spokesmen said allied forces were advancing to Kuwait City to meet up with Kuwaiti fighters holding the capital.

British government officials said the allies' aim was to neutralise Iraq's military machine in

troops were beating back the allied ground onslaught that started Sunday.

Newspapers Tuesday headlined the announcement that Iraq had ordered its troops to withdraw. But the news arrived so late that some of the papers still carried front-page editorials written earlier that called on the troops to fight on and promising military victory.

## Battle

(Continued from page 1)  
Iraqi forces as they pulled back.

"The enemy is still interfering in the withdrawal of our forces... this cowardly act exposes (his) mean attitude," the radio said.

Kuwait City was reported to have been taken by the allies, although some accounts said Iraqi soldiers trapped at the international airport of the emirate were putting up stiff resistance against the assault.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had ordered his troops to pull back into Iraq by midnight Tuesday, but it could not be established immediately how far this was achieved, particularly that the allies were blocking their withdrawal at Basra, in southern Iraq.

"Saddam is not interested in peace, but only to regroup and fight another day," Mr. Bush contended in a brief speech televised nationwide.

"The coalition will therefore continue to prosecute the war with undiminished intensity," Mr. Bush declared (see page 2). At a U.S. military briefing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Brigadier General Richard Neal said, "The Iraqi army is in full retreat." He described the Iraqi forces as "collapsing across the front."

"We have seen no indication they are laying down their weapons," said Gen. Neal.

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British government officials said the allies' aim was to neutralise Iraq's military machine in

Iraqi leadership.

"The Iraqi regime is not aiming at saving the Iraqi people and its economic and military potential. Rather it is aiming at saving the regime and saving its face," said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra.

Egypt, which with Syria is participating in the multinational force, said the withdrawal was not enough.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said the fighting would end only after Iraq accepted all the U.N. resolutions.

British Defence Minister Tom King said: "The picture... is confused, and there is certainly no clear overall pattern of a total withdrawal."

A senior British official said Iraqi forces must abandon their weapons in the theatre of operations, including areas of Iraq, and withdraw, only then could a ceasefire be considered.

Iraq "has not accepted full implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions. In his message he has shown he is not even abandoning his claims on Kuwait," he added.

But France, the third biggest Western member of the coalition after the United States and Britain, said Iraq "has at last decided to talk seriously" in announcing a withdrawal and "recognising Kuwait as a separate entity."

The allied had joined battle with the 150,000-strong Republican Guard forces, the cream of the Iraqi armed forces and a pillar of the government.

Almost all the allies in the coalition appeared to support the U.S. position and approach. Predictably, Britain was the most vociferous of the lot.

Syria whose President Hafez Al Assad is a bitter foe of President Saddam, blamed what it called "the catastrophe" on the

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiaki Kaifu said Iraq seemed to be moving towards implementing its pledge to withdraw from Kuwait.

## Iran

(Continued from page 1)

Radio Tuesday and announcing Iraqi troops would withdraw from Kuwait, IRNA said.

Tehran Radio said the Iraqi move could lead to peace, but perceived U.S. insistence on toppling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could deepen the crisis.

It said President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani spoke of "incorrect calculations of Iraqi leaders and their delay in deciding to pull out of Kuwait" in a meeting with India's former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in Teheran on

"When (peace) efforts were on the verge of bearing fruit, opportunities were lost one after the other and at every stage the United States and its allies had a suitable excuse to increase the pressure," Rafsanjani said.

Tehran Radio said the decision to end Kuwait's almost seven months of occupation was "accompanied by a deadly deal — the Iraqi leader could make the decision earlier based on whatever reason which made him submit now."

The deal had grave consequences, it said, "the least of which is the slaughter of people and destruction of infrastructural facilities in Iraq and Kuwait, which formed a major part of the Islamic World's wealth."

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## Maradona suspension request withdrawn

By Reuters

ITALIAN champions Napoli, at peace with captain Diego Maradona, have withdrawn a request that the volatile Argentine be suspended.

Napoli were due to go before the Italian Football Federation's Arbitration Council on March 1 to request Maradona's indefinite suspension after repeated breaches of club discipline.

The controversial midfielder has already paid 50 million lire (\$45,000) in fines for disciplinary offences this season.

Now, however, all is peace and light, according to Maradona.

"More than ever I want to play," Maradona wrote in a regular column for the Napoli newspaper Roma. "People be calm, I will go only at the end of the season."

Maradona has attended every training session since Feb. 8 and has been a key figure in recent league and cup wins over Parma, Bologna and Genoa.

With Maradona back in the fold, Napoli have been quick to deny newspaper reports that they were interested in buying Tottenham and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne.

"We're not interested in Gascoigne," said the club's commercial manager, Luciano Moggi.

"Gascoigne is a good player but he is English and as such is not much suited to our championship."

In Spain, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid were preparing for Wednesday's Spanish Cup second round; second leg tie. The first leg ended in a 1-1 draw.

Real will be without Mexican hotshot Hugo Sanchez, who strained a thigh muscle in training last week and missed last weekend's 2-0 win over Real Zaragoza, and Romanian striker Gheorghe Hagi.

According to French League

rules, clubs going into receivership face automatic relegation at the end of the season.

In England, Nottingham Forest kept alive their Football Association (F.A.) Cup hopes Monday with another late goal when they scraped a 1-1 draw in their fifth round match against Southampton.

After Southampton had taken a second-minute lead, Forest's England midfielder Steve Hodge forced a replay next Monday by turning a Roy Keane cross into the net 10 minutes from the end.

They then survived two minutes from the end when Southampton's Rod Wallace volleyed against the underside of the bar only for the ball to rebound safely.

In the previous round a last minute equaliser from Nigel Clough rescued Forest against Newcastle before they went on to win the replay.

He hasn't played since surgery on his left wrist last October. The operation followed an injury in a first-round match in Milan, Italy, last February, six months of rest and two unsuccessful returns.

Connors and John McEnroe

## Connors attempts comeback

CHICAGO (AP) — Jimmy Connors has an unlikely perspective on what some might call an untenable position — trying to make it on the pro circuit at age 38 after a wrist injury, surgery and two unsuccessful comebacks.

"What a beautiful situation to be in," said Connors, the no. 1 player in the world for 159 weeks in 1974-77, but now a decided underdog with a ranking of 987th.

"I can swing from the hip the way everyone has always played me, with nothing to lose. I've never been in this position before," Connors said.

Connors, from Bellville, Illinois, returns to the court this week at the Volvo Tennis Tournament in Chicago, beginning his 20th consecutive season on the pro tour.

He hasn't played since surgery on his left wrist last October. The operation followed an injury in a first-round match in Milan, Italy, last February, six months of rest and two unsuccessful returns.

Connors and John McEnroe are the two biggest names in the 32-man draw at the Volvo tournament, being played at the University of Illinois-Chicago through Sunday.

McEnroe won the tournament in 1985. Other recent champions include Michael Chang, Ivan Lendl, Tim Mayotte and Boris Becker.

Connors has done commentary on a limited basis for the National Broadcasting Co. and has a slew of business interests, but has still remained active in the game.

"I love everything to do with tennis," he recently told the Chicago Tribune. "Not hanging around the locker room but actually playing tennis, the exercise, being able to make a living at it. I just love the game. Playing in public up the check, it's all gray."

He reached the semifinals of the U.S. Open in 1987 and the quarterfinals in 1988 and 1989. He won a couple of singles titles in 1989. His injury last year put him on the sidelines.

After the surgery on Oct. 6, he was in a full-arm cast for 6 1/2 weeks and a half-cast for another 2 1/2 weeks. Since then, he has been working out with former pros John Lloyd and Marty Riessen.

"I've practiced to the point where I've had enough practice already and it's time to go out and play matches, cut loose and see what happens," he said.

"I'm very nervous about playing because I've been gone for so long."

"Now I feel like let's just get to it, serve 'em up and see if I can get my game to a certain level. And if I can't, well, 'good luck and have a good life.'

Connors has spent much of the past year teaching his son, Brett, 11, to play guitar and his daughter, Aubree, 6, to read.

The statement also said that Borg would come to train a week before the tournament to get in final shape for his return to competition.

## 2 Koreas agree on united soccer team

SEOUL (R) — South Korea and North Korea signed an agreement Tuesday on details of an unprecedented unified team to represent their divided peninsula at a World Youth Soccer Tournament in June.

The agreement, signed at the border village of Panmunjom, ended speculation here that the North, which last week cancelled a scheduled meeting between premiers of the two sides, might also try to pull out of an initial sports accord.

"Both sides reached a compromise though they had wrangled over such issues as selection matches, training schedules and the number of reporters to accompany players," a spokesman for Seoul's Sports Ministry said.

"We are now at the doorstep of realising the participation of a joint Korean team in the sixth World Youth Soccer Tournament in June."

ment," the spokesman said.

He said Tuesday's agreement called for both sides to complete the formation of the unified team by May 8 based on two selection matches. The first selection match is to be held in Seoul on May 4 and the second four days later in Pyongyang.

The unified team, which will comprise nine players from each side, will undergo intensive training for five days each in Seoul and Pyongyang before leaving for France on May 22 to play warm-up matches.

The two sides drafted a joint application to be sent to FIFA, the governing body of world soccer.

A FIFA spokesman in Zurich said Monday the two Koreas must submit official applications by Thursday if they wanted to enter the unified team in the soccer tournament in Portugal in June.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1991

By Thomas S. Person, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You won't have much of an opportunity to prepare for the weeks and months ahead when you will need to be more in tune with what others expect of you and in cementing partnerships more help.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the time for you to make progress in better understanding what others expect of you and in cementing partnerships more help.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You just don't see how to get started on your cherished longings in the morning but then suddenly a break comes that opens up new outlets.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A project can easily be taken off of your mind but easily tackled it after which you can survey your surroundings and see what needs to be done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have it in your power now to get rid of what is standing in the way of your desires, then full speed ahead in the evening to the recreations you enjoy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you think should be the best way to please your family requires much thought in the morning and then put this plan in motion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are certainly tied down to a career matter you do not much like in the morning but then the evening finds an important person appreciative of your worth.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can get the information or the person you need this morning to round out a plan action, then put it in effect quickly in the evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You have a long standing responsibility that had better meet head on this morning, then the evening can find you closeted

with your good advice.

## Huber tested in 1st round of California tournament

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Ninth seeded Anke Huber of Germany struggled past qualifier Rene Simpson-Alter of Canada 6-3-6-6-1 in the first round of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Palm Springs Women's Tennis Tournament group five the Wednesday.

Top-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, who will replace Steffi Graf of Germany as the number one player in the world if she wins here and beats second-seeded Martina Navratilova in the finals, received a first round bye, as did all of the top eight seeds.

Seles will face Britain's Monique Javer in the second round, and Navratilova will play South African Amanda Coetzer.

Fourteenth-seeded Marianne Werdel of the United States was the only seeded player to fall on

the first day. She was upset by American Stacey Martin 7-5 6-4 in a slugfest.

Tenth-seeded Rosalyn Fairbank-Nideffer of the United States ousted past Nathalie Herremans of France 6-2 6-2, and Clare Wood of Britain eliminated Mary Pierce of France 7-6 (7-4) 6-4 in other first-round matches.

Huber, ranked 25th in the world, has been compared to countrywoman Steffi Graf because of her hard-hitting style. But against Simpson-Alter she changed her strategy in the third set and played more cleverly.

"I don't like the comparisons because I can't hit hard all the time like Steffi," said Huber, "I need to play a different game sometimes, but I do prefer to hit hard. It's more fun."

## Borg seeks to enter Monte Carlo Tennis Tournament

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)

— Bjorn Borg, the five-time Wimbledon champion, is looking to make a return to competition at the Monte Carlo Tennis Tournament, organisers said Monday.

The Grand Prix tournament is the first major clay court tournament of the season. Borg, who turns 35 in June, reportedly wants to enter directly into the main draw although he has not played competitively in eight years.

"The great Swedish champion just informed the organisers that he is planning to take part in the Monte Carlo tournament which will take place on April 20 to 29, 1991," said a statement from the Monte Carlo Country Club, where the tennis tourney is held.

The statement also said that Borg would come to train a week before the tournament to get in final shape for his return to competition.

Last week, Bernard Noat, the head of the \$1-million event, said he would give Borg a wild card if he asked for it. Noat was not available for comment Monday.

Borg won the Wimbledon Grand Slam tournament five consecutive years between 1976 and 1980. He also won the French Open, which is played on clay, six times.

Borg, who has been training extensively over the last few months, won his last Grand Slam title at the 1981 French Open. He scored his last tournament victory later that year.

The former Swedish ace played in tournaments in 1982 and 1983, but has played just a few exhibitions since.

Borg and Jimmy Connors were set to play an exhibition in London on April 10, according to promoters. But Borg's agent has denied that the match would be held.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

"It's too cold to ski outdoors, so I covered the stairs with ice cream."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ARZYC

WIHSS

YIPTTS

BLENGO

ANSWER: HIS

Yesterday's Jumble: BRASS MOLDY AERATE RARITY

Answer: The secret of establishing a successful relationship is in making a good first impression — LAST

## THE Daily Crossword

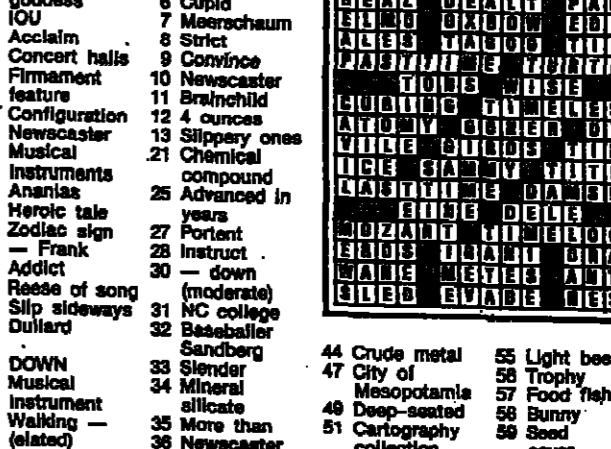
by Harvey L. Chew

ACROSS

1 Wooded area  
5 Bugle call  
9 River to the Adriatic  
14 Shorty  
15 Giv' off  
16 Hawk's Day  
17 Appellation  
18 Tipple  
19 Fishhook attachment  
20 Newcastle  
21 Russ mountains  
22 Threat words  
24 Author Ephron  
26 Goliath  
28 Goliath  
30 Struck hard  
31 Honey drink  
39 HRE word  
40 — and onions  
41 Com unit  
42 "Three" — a Horse"  
43 — and a fool  
44 Fairy tale opener  
45 Peas goddess  
46 IOU  
48 Acclaim  
50 Concert halls  
52 Firmament feature  
57 Configuration  
60 Newcastle  
63 Musical instruments  
64 Ananias  
65 Heroic tale  
66 Zodiac sign  
67 — Frank  
68 Addict  
69 Reefs of song  
70 Slip sideways  
71 Dullard

DOWN

1 Musical instrument  
2 Walking — (elated)  
3 Fr. river  
4 Toll  
5 Leash  
6 Cupid  
7 Meerschaum  
8 Strict  
9 Convince  
10 Newcastle  
11 Bratchild  
12 Curves  
13 Slippery ones  
21 Chemical compound  
25 Advanced in years  
27 Portent  
28 Instruct  
30 — down (moderate)  
31 NC college  
32 Baseballer  
33 Slender  
34 Mineral silicate  
35 More than Newcastle  
38 Region  
42 Track entrant  
44 Crude metal  
47 City of Mesopotamia  
48 Deep-seated  
51 Geography collection  
53 Petty officer  
54 Czar's edict  
55 Light beer  
56 Trophy  
57 Food fish  
58 Bunny  
59 Seaweed  
60 Caves  
61 Sky sound  
62 "The — Love"



# Economy

## Economists expect short U.S. recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — A substantial majority of the nation's top economic forecasters say the recession will be briefer and less severe than the post-World War II average for downturns, a survey released Tuesday showed.

Sixty-one per cent of forecasters polled look for the recession to be shorter than the post-1945 average of 11 months, while 36 per cent think it will be about average in length, the National Association of Business Economists (NABE) said.

"As for the recession depth, 78 per cent expect to see less than the post-war average 2.5 per cent decline in GNP (gross national product), while 15 per cent expect about an average decline," the association said.

The survey, conducted during the first two weeks of February, also showed just over half of the 51 economists believe the recession will end in the second quarter. Two-thirds had predicted last November that it would end in the first three months of this year.

In the new survey, 22 per cent put the low point in the current quarter, while 18 per cent said the downturn will bottom out in the third quarter of 1991.

The GNP fell at an annual rate of 2.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1990, and the median expectations of the NABE economists are for a 1.6 per cent decline in the current quarter and a 0.3 per cent decline in the next.

A recession generally is defined as at least two consecutive declines in the GNP, the nation's total output of goods and services.

But while the forecasters extended the length of the recession, they did not significantly alter their projection of the economy's initial recovery.

The recovery will continue through 1992, with the economy growing 2.5 per cent on a year-over-year basis, up from a decline of 0.2 per cent this year, the survey indicated.

## Singapore expects 3-6% growth

SINGAPORE (AP) — Uncertain about the impact of the Gulf war and the U.S. recession, booming Singapore expects its economy to expand by three to six per cent this year after 8.3 per cent growth in 1990.

"We are being realistic. ... at this moment, nobody can give a clear picture of what is happening in the Gulf," said Mah Bow Tan, the minister of state for trade and industry.

Asked by reporters if the forecast was overly modest, Mah said, "This range is a very comfortable one for us."

The three to six per cent projection was tentatively set in November.

"Since then the news has actually not been that bad," Mah said. He called three per cent the worst case scenario. "It would not be prudent at this time to revise the forecast."

Mah's remarks were made in a news conference on the release of the government's economic survey for 1990. The 8.3 per cent

growth compared to 9.2 per cent in 1990.

The economy has expanded since 1986, with an average 9.9 per cent growth rate since 1987. The last recession was in 1985.

In looking ahead, the survey said, "the major stock markets are up. The recession in the United States is expected to be short and mild. Germany and Japan are expected to register positive growth in 1991."

Buoyant economies in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia would help sustain regional growth, the survey said.

Without elaborating, Mah said last weekend's coup in Thailand would have no economic impact on Singapore or the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

ASEAN comprises Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei.

The 1990 inflation rate of 3.4 per cent took higher oil prices into account, the survey said. The closure of refineries in Iraq and

Kuwait as a result of the war increased demand for petroleum products from Singapore.

Unemployment hit a record low 1.7 per cent last June, corresponding to 22,700 jobless. The tight labour market impelled wage increases that exceeded production growth, the survey said.

Business costs have been picking up recently and concern has been expressed that we may be "losing our competitive edge," it said.

The United States, the European Community, Malaysia and Japan took about 57 per cent of Singapore's exports last year. Exports to the United States alone amounted to 21.1 per cent but declined in 1990 for the first time in more than 10 years.

The U.S. economy is likely to remain in recession for the first two quarters of 1991... the consensus view of economists is that the recession will be over by mid-1991," the survey.

## British trade goes further into red, deepening recession

LONDON (R) — Britain's trade plunged deeper into deficit last month, setting the stage for a possible weakening of the pound and dimming prospects of any quick exit from recession.

The government's Central Statistical Office said Monday the deficit on the current account balance of payments widened in January to £1.228 million (\$2.45 billion) from December's £255 million (\$1.7 billion).

Some financial analysts worry that the pound might be undermined if the trade picture remains bad. A weaker currency would in turn make it harder for the government to cut high British interest rates, blamed for the business recession.

Markets had expected the trade gap to narrow to around £200 million (\$1.6 billion) in January, continuing an improvement begun last October.

Despite the upset, the treasury

(finance ministry) insisted that "the trend ... is still clearly downward."

Officials say calculations in January were upset by volatile items, including the export of North Sea oil, which fell because of platform maintenance work, and the trade in so-called "erratics" — gems and aircraft.

A December surplus of £119 million (\$231.5 million) on erratics turned into a January deficit of £109 million (\$212 million).

The surplus on oil fell to £16 million (\$31.1 million) from £23 million (\$414.3 million).

"The figures do not change the trend of a narrowing trade gap," said Ian Amstad, senior economist at Chase Manhattan Bank.

But Peter Spencer at Shearson Lehman Brothers said imports were still pouring in.

"The market share of importers typically falls in a recession. But it hasn't fallen in this recession," he said.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Confusion over reports that Iraq had offered to withdraw from Kuwait kept the market in the dojdrums until late-buying pushed it higher. The All Ordinaries index posted its third straight gain, rising 1.0 point to 1,413.4.

TOKYO — The Nikkei index saw-sawed violently after Iraq's announcement it was withdrawing from Kuwait and closed down 179.8 points at 26,282.96. "An end to the war had already been discounted," a broker said.

HONG KONG — News that Saddam Hussein planned to address to the Iraqi people came late and had little impact. The Hang Seng index gained 11.98 points to 3,532.43.

SINGAPORE — Expectations of an early end to the Gulf war helped the Straits Times industrial index gain 15.52 points to 1,432.78.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 27.33 points to 1,205.20 on news that Iraq started withdrawing from Kuwait. "The market had been waiting to see an end to the fighting," said broker Sunil Kothari. "We see good prospects for Indian firms in the reconstruction."

FRANKFURT — Tax rises for the costs of the Gulf war and German unity sent the DAX index down 42.91 points to 1,558.25.

ZURICH — The all-share SPI index fell 14.4 points to 1,015.2. Traders said an end to the Gulf war was already discounted.

PARIS — Profit-taking and negative French jobs and trade data reversed the past week's climb. The CAC-40 index, which hit a six-month high Monday, fell 32.86 points to 1,712.31.

LONDON — With little reaction to war news the FTSE index was hit by profit-taking and a weak start on Wall Street and closed at 2,322.2, a drop of 13.3.

## U.S., U.K. unfreeze assets of 7 Kuwaiti banks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department announced Monday that starting March 18 seven Kuwaiti banks may draw on assets frozen by the United States to settle claims made prior to the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion.

Immediately after Iraq stormed into Kuwait, President George Bush froze all assets of both countries that were held in the United States to prevent Iraq from taking control.

Still excluded from the Treasury Department order were settlement of obligations denominated in Kuwaiti dinars and claims related to deposits held in either country.

The treasury also said no transfers may be made to the government of Iraq, persons in Iraq or Kuwait or entities operated from either country.

The banks are Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East, Burgan Bank, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, the Gulf Bank, the Industrial Bank of Kuwait, and Kuwait Real Estate Bank.

The U.S. action was taken at the request of the Central Bank of Kuwait which has guaranteed all valid obligations, although it said it believed the blocked banks will be able to satisfy their claims directly.

Similar action was taken Monday by the Bank of England, the treasury announcement said.

The order, by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, also permits the banks immediately to begin preparations for settling the claims, such as gathering information, arranging credit and liquidating or transferring blocked assets.

## Turkish trade deficit soars to \$9.3 billion

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, hit by the Gulf crisis, more than doubled its 1990 trade deficit to \$9.34 billion from \$4.17 billion in 1989, official figures showed Monday.

The State Institute of Statistics (SIS) said the 124.2 per cent rise in the trade gap was the largest since 1974.

"The underlying problem is the world recession because of the Gulf crisis and Turkey is getting its share," said Memduh Hacioglu, chairman of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry.

Turkey's trade balance has been worsened by higher oil prices coupled with the loss of export markets in Iraq and the Gulf since Bagdad invaded Kuwait last August. A surge in sales of foreign cars also swelled the import bill.

Government officials estimate Turkey's overall Gulf-related losses at nearly \$4.7 billion in 1990.

The SIS bulletin said exports covered only 58.1 per cent of imports in 1990, compared to 73.6 per cent in 1989.

Exports rose 11.4 per cent to \$12.96 billion from \$11.68 billion in 1989, while imports soared to \$22.3 billion from \$15.79 billion, a rise of 41.2 per cent.

"The problem of export financing is one cause of the widening trade gap," Hacioglu told Reuters. "Turkish Eximbank should give more credits to finance exports and thus bridge the deficit."

Turkish Eximbank provided export credits worth nearly \$940 million to local companies in 1990. Bank officials would not comment on this year's lending programme.

Some industrialists, particularly in the textile sector, want Ankara to restrain cheap imports to protect local industry.

However, State Minister Isin Celebi pledged last month to continue to liberalise import policies to spur competition and stimulate productivity and efficiency in the domestic market.

The SIS said exports to Germany, Turkey's biggest trade partner, rose to \$3.6 billion and imports to \$3.5 billion in 1990, compared to \$2.18 billion and \$2.2 billion in 1989.

Exports to Iraq, Turkey's second biggest trade partner in 1989, were worth \$214 million before the invasion of Kuwait, down from \$445 million in the whole of 1989. Imports fell to \$1.04 billion, compared to \$1.65 billion in 1989.

Textiles and iron and steel products topped the export list last year. Machinery, crude oil, electronic goods, iron, steel and chemicals were the leading imported items.

Vehicle imports soared 470 per cent to more than \$650 million, the SIS figures showed.

## Bonn coalition agrees to raise income, oil taxes

BONN (R) — Germany's coalition government has agreed to raise fuel and income taxes to help finance German unification and aid to Eastern Europe, Finance Minister Theo Waigel said Tuesday.

After a meeting of almost six hours, Waigel told reporters the three parties in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition had agreed to impose a 7.5 per cent surcharge on income and corporate tax payments for one year from July 1.

The income tax surcharge alone should raise 18.75 billion marks (\$12.5 billion).

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU), its sister party the Christian Social Union (CSU) and the Free Democratic Party (FDP) also agreed to raise taxes on vehicle fuels from July 1.

The levy will rise by 25 pfennings (16.7 cents) per litre on leaded petrol, 23 pfennings (15.3 cents) on unleaded petrol and 10 pfennings (6.7 cents) on diesel fuel.

A tax on insurance premiums will also rise.

Total revenue from the tax increases should exceed 20 billion

marks (\$13.3 billion) from 1992, the said.

The rise will help Bonn fill a gap of at least 20 billions marks (\$13.3 billion) in its budget for 1991 and 30 billion (\$20 billion) a year in the following years.

Waigel said the tax increases were "economically relatively un-damaging" and should impose no lasting burden on the economy.

FDP leader Otto Lansdorff said Monday the proposed tax rises could slice one percentage point off German economic growth this year. Waigel said last week he expected former West Germany's economy to grow by 3.2 per cent in 1991, down from 4.6 per cent in 1990.

An increase in German taxes was inevitable last week as government ministers and Kohl's CDU admitted that Bonn had misjudged the cost of German unification last year.

Kohl pledged before the general election on Dec. 2 that German unification would not lead to higher taxes.

But the problems in former East Germany were underestimated. Apart from antiquated factories, most of the infrastruc-

ture must be rebuilt, from phone lines to power plants.

The collapse of the Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon and the switch to convertible currencies have added to the former country's woes. Unemployment is growing steadily and economists expect the region's economy to shrink by one-fifth in 1991.

On top of its commitments to the eastern part of united Germany, Bonn has pledged almost 16 billion marks (\$10.7 billion) to the allied Gulf war effort.

Leading politicians also expect Germany to pay four to five billion marks (\$2.7 to \$3.5 billion) more in aid to Eastern Europe.

With the budget deficit in 1991 forecast to rise 40 per cent to almost 70 billion marks (\$4.7 billion) from 1990, an increase in borrowing had been ruled out by Bonn.

The Bundesbank has already warned that runaway spending by regional governments could boost the 1991 public sector deficit as high as 155 billion marks (\$103.3 billion), well over Waigel's target of 140 billion (\$93.3 billion).

## Iran opens \$100 million credit line for Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Iran will open a \$100 million credit line to Romania's consumer goods imports from Tehran, a Romanian official said Monday.

"The line will be open to all Romanian firms and credit terms will be set through bilateral negotiations between Romanian importers and Iranian exporters," the official in the trade and tourism ministry was quoted by the news agency Rompres as saying.

The credit was part of a broader package agreed during a meeting last week between the two countries' joint economic and technical commission in Bucharest.

Other agreements already announced Iranian exports of five million tonnes of oil a year to Romania and cooperation in building an Iranian gas pipeline via Turkey to Europe.

Iran, which has the world's largest gas reserves after the Soviet Union, is currently negotiating on the gas pipeline plan with France and a five-country group consisting of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Romania and Yugoslavia.

## Comecon burial postponed

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — A summit to dissolve the Soviet-led eastern trading bloc Comecon, scheduled to be held in Budapest this week, has been postponed, officials said Monday.

Klara Fogarasi, a spokeswoman at the ministry for external commercial relations had "received word from Moscow that the meeting was postponed indefinitely."

But the Czechoslovak CTK news agency later quoted Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy as saying in Prague that the Soviets had proposed that Comecon meet instead in Moscow March 13-11, at ministerial level.

Dlouhy told reporters that he was inviting representatives of Comecon countries for weekend discussions on the Soviet proposal, CTK said.

With the advent of democracy and the introduction of market economies in East European countries, the organisation that regulated trade among the countries has lost its significance.

However, State Minister Isin Celebi pledged last month to continue to liberalise import policies to spur competition and stimulate productivity and efficiency in the domestic market.

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## Thai king gives seal of approval to military coup

BANGKOK (R) — Military officers in full dress uniform raised champagne toasts Tuesday after a royal order from the king of Thailand legitimised their weekend coup against the civilian government.

Martial law would be lifted as soon as an interim government was installed, coup leader General Sunthorn Kongkompong told reporters after the ceremony.

A cabinet of civilians and military men would be formed in a week to 10 days, the armed forces supreme commander said.

A royal command from King Bhumibol Adulyadej approved Sunthorn as head of the military junta, which calls itself the National Peacekeeping Command.

His order was read at a ceremony in the army auditorium before ranks of officers in dress uniform. Afterwards they stood in line to shake Sunthorn's hand and drink a champagne toast.

The deposed government of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan had lost the faith of the people, and had failed to maintain law and order, the royal command said.

The king asked his 35 million-

people to remain peaceful and instructed civil servants and government officials to follow orders from Sunthorn.

King Bhumibol is a revered figure and although he has no direct say in day-to-day affairs it would be impossible to form a government against his wishes.

The military overthrew Chatichai in a swift and bloodless coup Saturday, saying the government was corrupt and misusing its power.

Sunthorn declared martial law and said corrupt politicians would be hunted down and punished.

The coup, the 17th in Thailand's modern history, ended two-and-a-half years of full democracy in one of South East Asia's most rapidly prospering countries.

The U.S.-trained Sunthorn, elaborating on the junta's promise to hand over to a caretaker civilian government and eventually to return the country to elected leaders, said the new cabinet had not yet been formed.

There was no word on the identity of the interim premier or when he would be appointed. Elder statesman and constitutional expert Ukrit Mongkolnavin

was widely tipped as the most likely candidate.

"The new prime minister will take care of the routine running work and the military will step back to advise on major policy," Suchit Bumpongkarn, professor of politics at Chulalongkorn University, said.

The military received a nod of approval from the stockmarket and Thai newspapers Tuesday.

The Set Index, which plunged Monday, recovered to close 41.99 higher at 776.23, brokers at the Bangkok bourse said.

The country's biggest selling newspaper, Thai Rath, summed up the general mood of editors, saying: "All praise the military and support it in getting rid of vice."

Some foreign governments have decried the military overthrow of an elected government.

Asked if States had cut off aid to protest against the coup, Sunthorn said: "I am, but it is our own internal problem. We have to solve it in our own way."

Chatichai is still being detained by the military. Leaders of the junta said he could be released soon.

## At least 200 die in New Guinea landslide

PORT MORESBY. Papua New Guinea (AP) — A massive mudslide in the Papua New Guinea highlands Tuesday killed at least 200 people and buried an unknown number of others, the country's prime minister said.

The mudslide, caused by torrential rains in recent weeks, wiped out homes, villages and roads in the rugged, mountainous area about 300 kilometres northwest of the capital, Port Moresby.

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said there are fears that the death toll could rise when searches and military officials reach the area at daybreak Wednesday to begin relief operations.

"It is too early yet to establish the final toll," Namaliu said Tuesday.

He called the landslide one of the country's worst natural disasters ever.

Australia, which granted Papua New Guinea its independence in 1975 after maintaining the country as a protectorate, is standing by to offer assistance if asked, Defence Department officials said in Canberra.

At least 15 people have been killed in party clashes during the 35 days of campaigning, which by law ended at midnight Monday. The toll so far is low for Bangladesh, where election death tolls usually exceed 100.

Hasina, Zia and Ershad are not facing each other in their individual election districts. All three are expected to win their personal races, and most analysts believe Hasina's Awami League will edge out Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

With a gesture at a giant painting of a sheaf of rice, her party's campaign symbol, Zia intoned: "We promise you will always have rice."

Hasina, meanwhile, was addressing a crowd estimated at 100,000 in an empty lot surrounded by deep ditches and a construction site that prevented the sort of spillover generated by her rival.

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feats his seat. Overall, his Jatiya Party is expected to finish far back in the field — behind Hasina's and Zia's parties and an assortment of Muslim and leftist groups.

Zia, a charismatic campaigner who evokes the sort of mass awe associated with movie stars, outclassed Hasina at the last campaign rallies.

A crowd estimated at 200,000 by local journalists jammed the eight-lane boulevard in front of parliament to await the arrival of the 46-year-old widow of President Ziaur Rahman, who was killed in a military coup in 1981.

Zia needed only to walk slowly across the wobbling stage and wave to bring the crowd surging forward.

"We will not allow you to die from starvation," she promised, invoking memories of the 1974 famine when 30,000 people died when Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was president.

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Zia needed only to walk slowly across the wobbling stage and wave to bring the crowd surging forward.

"We will not allow you to die from starvation," she promised, invoking memories of the 1974 famine when 30,000 people died when Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was president.

With a gesture at a giant painting of a sheaf of rice, her party's campaign symbol, Zia intoned: "We promise you will always have rice."

Hasina, meanwhile, was addressing a crowd estimated at 100,000 in an empty lot surrounded by deep ditches and a construction site that prevented the sort of spillover generated by her rival.

"Give me your vote. I'll give

feats his seat. Overall,